

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 822 – HB 978

March 21, 2016

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Enacts the Tennessee Native Species Lumber Act, by authorizing any commercial sawmill operator, when requested by an end user, to certify in writing to a purchaser that lumber is equal to or better than number two grade (No. 2) in accordance with American Softwood Standard PS 20-70 of the United States Department of Commerce. Defines the terms “agricultural building”, “commercial sawmill”, “end user”, “grader”, and “native timber” for the purposes of the act. Requires certification include the name of the wood species; the quantity of wood certified; the location where the wood is to be used; whether or not the wood is seasoned; the name of the commercial sawmill where the wood was cut; the name of the grader; and the date on which the wood was cut at the commercial sawmill and graded. Requires code officials accept certification in lieu of grade stamp requirements. Requires any person who uses native timber harvested from and used on the person’s property to certify, if required, that lumber meets building code requirements. Requires no certification for native lumber used for an agricultural building.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (014406): Deletes all language of the original bill. Creates the Tennessee Homestead Timber and Lumber Act. Authorizes any person who uses homestead timber or lumber to choose to be exempt from state or local building codes that require timber or lumber to meet or exceed American Softwood Standard PS-20-70. Requires such timber to be branded with the owner’s registered brand. Requires commercial sawmills to provide documentation to the property owner certifying that homestead lumber was produced of homestead timber delivered to the mill. Requires mill to provide documentation to the property owner certifying that products dried, re-sawn, resurfaced, or otherwise remanufactured at a facility other than the sawmill were produced from homestead lumber delivered to the mill. Requires documentation to include but not be limited to the name and address of the commercial sawmill or other milling facility where the homestead timber was sawn or produced; the signature of the commercial sawmill or milling facility owner; and the date the homestead timber or lumber was received and cut or produced at the commercial sawmill.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Based on the information received from the Department of Agriculture, this legislation will have no impact on the department.
- Any fiscal impact upon local governments as a result of exemptions from state or local building codes is estimated to be not significant.
- Any other fiscal impact as a result of this legislation will be borne by private parties.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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